

Board of Selectmen

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

January 23 2024

7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7PM. Present: Fred Ehrlenbach, Carol Walsh, John Bennett, Danielle Cole, Dan Monahan, Charles Farley, Jr., Jessica Thurston, Chyann Murphy, Leroy & Emily Muise, Susan Sargent, Michael Gilmartin, Tom Reeve, Brant Viner, Chistina Heninger, Aaron Brown, Gary Atkins, Joanna Dotts, Chantel Longo-Guess, Martha Higgins, Mike Zboray (AOS Supt.), Michael Gilmartin, Tom Reeve, Brant Viner, Chistina Heninger, Aaron Brown, Gary Atkins, Joanna Dotts, Chantel Longo-Guess, Martha Higgins, Mike Zboray (AOS Supt.)
- II. Zoom attendees: Margaret Harlin, Carol Perrault
- III. Visitors to be Heard: none
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Danielle Cole asked to add Roadside Cleanup Trees under Other Business. Moved Bennett and Seconded Farley to approve the agenda as modified. 5 - 0
- V. Approval of Minutes January 9, 2024: Moved Bennett and Seconded Cole to approve the Minutes of January 9, 2024 as presented. Vote: 5 - 0
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Fire Department: no report
 - b. Budget Committee: member discussion moved to next meeting agenda-2-6-24.
- VII. New Business
 - a. AOS 91 Reorganization Committee (Zboray): AOS 91 School Superintendent Michael Zboray came to the meeting to seek a representative to the School Reorganization Committee that had previously been a committee made up of school board members, researching the possibilities available to AOS 91 if they were to reconfigure the schools from an AOS to something more “manageable”. He discussed the 9 schools that have to be coordinated through the financial department of the Superintendent’s office. When questioned about whether or not the original committee that had been meeting for well over a year, had decided that an RSU was the way to go, Zboray was adamant that no clear direction had been decided and the Reorganization Committee would research every possibility. It would be ideal to have one budget to work with rather than 9 separate budgets. The purpose for this meeting was to have the Board nominate and vote on one Trenton resident (and Municipal Officers were part of the recommendation) to the newly forming committee that would meet twice a month. Lengthy discussion on school ownership in an RSU was had and unless there was a way to avoid it, the school property would become part of the RSU, either automatically or through a lease. Zboray said that the RSU would be responsible for all upkeep and

maintenance of the schools. Walsh pointed out that it would still be reflected in a school budget and therefore the taxpayers would still be footing the bill.

Financial issues related to joining an RSU was discussed with Ehrlenbach saying that Trenton had no debt, but that an RSU would acquire something in the area of \$150 million with other schools in the district planning either new facilities, or major upgrades. By being part of an RSU, Trenton taxpayers would then be helping fund these projects which would greatly affect the real estate taxes for Trenton residents. Zboray answered other questions from the residents attending, attempting to clarify the purpose of the Reorganization Committee being formed. Cole nominated Fred Ehrlenbach, seconded by Bennett to represent the Town of Trenton on the Reorganization Committee. Vote: 4 – 0 – 1(abstain)

- b. Sign Road Commissioner Appointment: It was Moved Bennett and Seconded Cole to sign the Road Commissioner Appointment naming Henry Muise, as Road Commissioner to complete the vacated term, through 6-30-24. Vote: 5 - 0
 - c. Obligate ARPA Funds to implement HCC Mitigation Plan (continued from 1-9-23). It was Moved Monahan and Seconded Bennett to obligate remaining ARPA funds to implement HCC Mitigation Plan recommendations. Vote; 5 - 0
- VIII. Approval of A/P & Payroll Warrant(s): It was Moved Farley and Seconded Bennett to approve A/P and Payroll Warrant(s) as presented. Vote: 5 - 0
- IX. Other Business: Cole asked about a tree blown down on Bayside Road that extends over the culvert and close to the travel lane. There were cones around the debris and it was stated by a member of the Board that those were placed by DOT. Walsh said she had e-mail from the property owner asking if the Town was responsible for clean-up. She returned the e-mail notifying the property owner that the tree that blew down was on her property and therefore her responsibility. She also suggested that the person contact DOT as it is a State Road and not a local road. Cole noted that some towns have a policy of marking with colored ribbon any trees that have fallen and are “up for grabs” by anyone wanting the wood.
- X. Adjourn: It was Moved Farley and Seconded Bennett to adjourn the meeting at 8:09pm. Vote: unanimous

Join zoom meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/98446832979?pwd=emJaeGdTMGJCUWFOcnlFdjZ2NHJvZz09>

Meeting ID: 984 4683 2979

Passcode: a7dckn